

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/552,002

Examiner

Rodney H. Bonck

Applicant(s)

JOKI, MARK A.

Art Unit

3681

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the filing of application SN 10/552,002.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-17.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date (6 docs) see p.2
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

The following is a first action on the merits of application Serial No.10/552,002, filed October 4, 2005. The preliminary amendments filed June 15, 2006 and September 27, 2006 have been entered.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-17 are allowed.

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record fails to show or render obvious a clutch device as defined in claim 1, particularly including, a race member fixed to the first conic surface, a slipper member positioned adjacent the second conic surface, the race and slipper members having complementary projections to define pockets into which rollers are arranged, wherein the first and second members are axially adjustable relative to one another between a first axial relationship in which the slipper is free of the second conic surface and a second axial relationship in which the slipper contacts the second conic surface.

The art also fails to disclose or render obvious the method of forming a clutching device as defined in claim 15, particularly including the steps of providing the first race member with a radially extending flange at a first axial end and a generally open second axial end, providing the slipper member with a first axial end with a radially extending

flange and a generally open second axial end and closing the race member second axial end and the slipper member second axial end.

Dorrie et al.(US 2004/0121846 A1) is considered to be the closest prior art, but the first and second members in Dorrie et al. do not have the claimed conic surfaces and the first and second members are not axially adjustable as claimed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Priority

Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

Receipt is acknowledged of the Information Disclosure Statements filed October 4, 2005, February 24, 2006, April 7, 2006, May 4, 2006, July 6, 2006, and March 6, 2007. The cited documents have been considered.

Drawings

The replacement sheets of drawings were received on June 15, 2006. These drawings are acceptable.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Dorrie et al.(US 2004/0121846 A1) shows a roller clutch having a race member 10 and slipper member 20. Fukui et al.('964) shows a conical roller clutch with axially movable members. Kerr('294) and Castens('601) show other roller clutches.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rodney H. Bonck whose telephone number is (571) 272-7089. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:00AM - 3:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles A. Marmor can be reached on (571) 272-7095. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Rodney H. Bonck
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3681

rhb
October 3, 2007